

Members, Henry! They're gonna love you! And they're gonna say it with votes!... Then there are the department stores... and the candy companies... and the Christmas card artists and printers... And what about the Salvation Army? They've got a Santa Claus on every corner, and it's their biggest source of income... I'm telling you, Henry, if you rule that there's no Santa Claus, you can count on getting just two votes: yours and that lawyer, Mara's.

JUDGE (*shakes his head sadly, puts up one finger*). One. Mara's a Republican. (*He exits to courtroom.*)

SCENE FIVE

SCENE: Courtroom.

BAILIFF (*as JUDGE enters*). All rise.

JUDGE (*after courtroom is seated*). The question of Santa Claus is... uh... by and large a matter of opinion. Many people firmly believe in him. Many others do not. The tradition of American justice demands a broad and unprejudiced view of such a controversial matter. This court intends to keep an open mind. I will hear any evidence from either position. (*Courtroom reacts moderately.*)

MISS ADAMS. Yes!

FRED. Your Honor, I believe I have some further evidence. I call Thomas Mara to the stand.

MARA (*startled*). Who? Me?

START → FRED. ~~Thomas Mara, Junior. (TOMMY takes stand. To JUDGE.) May we skip the oath, Your Honor?~~ (*JUDGE nods.*) Now, do you believe in Santa Claus, Tommy?

TOMMY. Sure I do. He brought me a sled last year.

FRED. What does he look like?

TOMMY. He's sitting right over there!

MARA. Objection!

JUDGE. Overruled.

FRED. Tell me, Tommy, why are you so sure there is a Santa Claus?

TOMMY. Because my daddy told me so. (*To MARA.*) Didn't you, Daddy? (*Outburst from crowd. JUDGE grins and raps for order.*)

FRED. And you believe your daddy, don't you, Tommy? He's a truthful person.

TOMMY. Of course. My daddy wouldn't tell me something that wasn't so.

FRED. Thank you, Tommy. ~~You may go.~~ * END

~~TOMMY (as he passes KRIS). Don't forget, a real official football helmet.~~